THE PER PUPIL COST OF OPERATING HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS WITH ENROLLMENTS NOT EXCEEDING ONE HUNDRED

by

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INTRODUCTION

With the steady and rapid increase in enrollment in the high schools in Kansas the past twenty years, the school costs have steadily increased in proportion. The time is at hand when the per pupil cost of four years training in high school should be held at the lowest possible cost to the tax payers, and still provide for the boys and girls of Kansas the best high school educational facilities possible.

It was with this thought in mind that the following study was made of the present per pupil cost of operating high schools in Kansas in schools having an enrollment of not over one hundred pupils.

The Kansas School Code Commission has asked that a copy of this report be placed in their hands.

The material for this thesis was obtained from the reports of the Principals filed in the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at Topeka, for the school year 1926 and 1927.

STATISTICS ON KANSAS HIGH SCHOOLS IN CITIES OF THE THIRD CLASS AND OTHER PLACES

This study was made from two hundred seventy-four high schools in third class cities and rural districts in

Kansas with the exception of one second class city included. There are five hundred seventy-seven high schools in third class and non-incorporated cities, and one hundred twenty-seven of these schools had a total enrollment of over one hundred students. Those schools were omitted as this study includes only those with enrollment of one hundred or below.

One hundred seventy-six schools had to be omitted due to incorrect and missing reports. This shows a decided carelessness on the part of thirty-nine per cent of the principals in the schools of not over one hundred enrollment. Few rural high school organizations had to be thrown out as the reports were apparently more nearly correct and complete. A number of the reports were sent back to the schools to have the figures verified, but a very slight degree of accuracy would be gained in the procedure as very few errors were found. There is some error in the average daily attendance as shown in the reports as in many schools it is reported the same as the total enrollment. This is true more especially in Group I.

Grouping of Schools

In this study, the high schools were divided into four groups based on total enrollment. Group I consists of schools with an enrollment not over twenty-five; Group II includes schools with an enrollment between twenty-six and fifty; Group III between fifty-one and seventy-five; Group IV between seventy-six and one hundred one.

The per pupil cost of operating the school was determined, first, on the total enrollment and second on the average daily attendance.

TABLE I. Schools with a Total Enrollment of Not over 25 Pupils.
GROUP I

School	Classification	Total Enroll.	Av. Daily Att.	Total Am't Pd. Out Less Permanent Impr.	Per Pupil Cost Per Annum	
					Total Enr.	Av. Daily Att.
Niotaze	2 yr.	8	7	$ 1500	187	214
Hewins	2 yr.	11	8	1800	163	225
Green	D	22	20	2960	134	148
Leoville	D	15	14	5326	355	380
Carlton	2 yr.	4	4	1470	367	367
Elmo	2 yr.	15	14	1410	94	100
Manchester	2 yr.	11	10	1455	132	145
Sparks	D	21	15	6271	298	418
Leona	D	22	19	7150	325	376
Doniphan	D	18	16	5267	292	329
Fellsburg	C	21	19	6303	300	331
Smoky Hill	3 yr.	15	13	1367	91	105
Friend	2 yr.	5	5	1650	330	330
Peoria	2 yr.	4	2	795	198	397
Park	2 yr.	8	7	2193	274	313
Utopia	D	24	22	3804	158	172
Lamont	2 yr.	8	5	1947	243	389
Neal	D	19	18	4695	247	260
Rock Creek	C	14	12	6347	453	528
Adams	C	10	9	5440	544	604
Nashville	C	22	19	4907	223	258
Penalosa	D	24	23	4996	208	271
Belvidere	2 yr.	2	1.6	1467	733	917
Russel Spr.	D	22	17	4060	184	238
Lehigh	C	25	21	6572	262	312
Inman	C	18	17	11100	666	705
Fontana	D	24	23	5092	212	221
Liberty	2 yr.	11	10	1764	160	176
Havana	D	19	16	4095	215	255
Dearing	2 yr.	14	11	1575	112	143
Wilberton	D	17	16	3805	223	237
Glendale	App.	10	10	2139	213	213
Wayne	2 yr.	7	7	1350	192	192
Munden	D	25	23	2460	138	150
Norway	D	22	21	2715	123	129
Bavaria	D	24	23	10408	433	452
Cedar	D	25	24	3861	154	160

TABLE I continued:

Anson	2 yr.	9	9	1759	195	195
Corbin	2 yr.	11	10	1717	156	171
Mayfield	2 yr.	9	8	1576	175	196
Hopewell	2 yr.	4	4	1707	426	424
Halifax	2 yr.	3	3	1506	502	502
Appanoose	D	24	23	5390	224	234
Wea	D	20	18	4159	231	207

Findings in Group I

Group I, including those schools with an enrollment not over twenty-five pupils, consists of forty-four high schools. Approximately fifty-seven per cent of the schools in this group were thrown out due to incomplete reports and to having combined the grade and high school reports.

The classifications, which are made at the office of the State Superintendent, are A, B, C, D, and approval for from one to three years. There are in class C seven schools, class D seventeen, three year approval one, and two year approval nineteen. Thus of the forty-four schools included in this study, twenty, or nearly fifty per cent, are just approved but not classified. Many of the schools, that have been given a classification and have four years' work, are giving two years' work each year and alternate a majority of the subjects so as to make it possible for two or three teachers to handle the four years' work.

The average cost per pupil on total enrollment is $262.00 and for average daily attendance $296.00. This cost

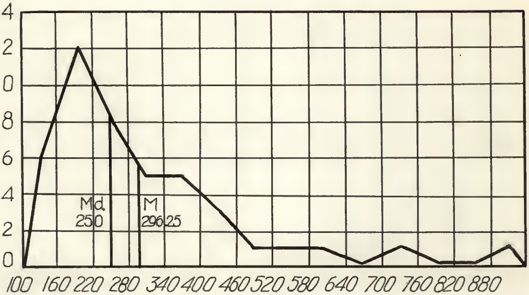

Figure 1. Polygon Frequency Curve Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost Per Year for Operating High Schools in Kansas with the Average Daily Attendance between One and Twenty-Six.

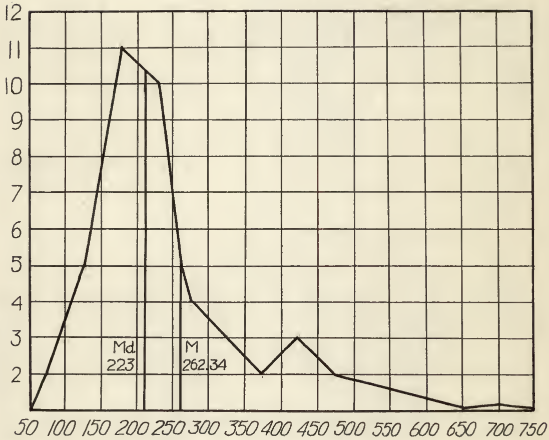

Figure 2. Polygon Frequency Curve Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost Per Year for Operating High Schools in Kansas with the Total Enrollment between One and Twenty-six.

is very high in comparison with Groups III and IV and appears at first thought almost unreasonable. The highest cost per pupil for any single school is at Belvidere, which school had a total enrollment of two and an average daily attendance of one and six tenths. The total cost of operation was $1467.00, making the cost per pupil on total enrollment $733.00, and on average daily attendance $917.00. Another case of very high costs per pupil was at Halifax. The writer interviewed each board member of this school. They had a total enrollment of three with a per pupil cost of $502.00 per year. In this case two of the three school board members each had a child to attend high school and did not care to send them to Eskridge or to Alma. There was a very small attendance at the annual meeting and the vote was for a high school.

Twelve of these schools had a total enrollment of less than ten pupils. Twenty-one, or almost half of the schools in this group, have only one teacher. Fourteen schools have two teachers, seven have three teachers, and two, four teachers. In the four teacher schools the costs are comparatively much higher than in the others, averaging $578.00 per pupil on average daily attendance. This arises from too many teachers for the enrollment, possibly caused by trying to maintain a four year high school. The three teacher schools are run at a cost of $403.00 per annum per pupil on average daily attendance. The two teacher schools cost $237.00 and the one teacher schools $283 per pupil per annum.

According to the above figures the two teacher schools in this group have the lowest cost of operation but the lowest cost is in one teacher schools with an enrollment above twelve pupils. Some one is designated as principal and an extra salary paid this individual for acting as administrator and in most cases he carries a full time teaching load. This has been shown by a "Study of the Costs of Public Secondary Education in Harvey County", by Wedel. This tends to increase the cost per unit of instruction.

The cost of operating the schools in this group is very high as has been shown, but the greatest loss is to the pupils attending these schools. Most of the one teacher schools employ inexperienced teachers and they handle six subjects. Without doubt there is not one of these beginners that handle more than half of the six subjects efficiently. There is practically no social life for the students and few, if any, extra curricular activities. The findings for this group of high schools with an enrollment not over twenty-five are a prohibitive cost to the community and the most inefficient type of organization and instruction.

TABLE II. Schools with a Total Enrollment of 25 to 50 Inclusive. GROUP II.

School	Classification	Total Enroll.	Av. Daily Att.	Total Am't Pd. Out Less Permanent Impr.	Per Pupil Cost Per Annum	
					Total Enr.	Av. Daily Att.
Michigan Valley	C	32	31	$ 4509	140	145
Fostoria	D	33	30	3122	94	104
Blaine	D	36	33	4866	135	147
Cullison	B	36	31	12641	351	407
Byers	B	46	45	10724	233	238
Sawyer	B	33	30	10090	305	336
Coats	B	49	42	10813	220	257
Plevna	C	28	25	8600	307	344
Abbyville	B	44	40	11111	252	277
Kackley	D	35	34	3640	104	107
Raymond	B	32	28	10297	321	367
Welda	B	34	31	6344	186	204
Lone Elm	D	40	38	5785	144	152
Potter	D	34	29	5544	163	191
Matfield Green	C	32	30	8868	277	295
Elmdale	B	49	47	12454	254	264
Uniontown	D	46	40	7848	170	196
Cassady	B	28	25	9965	355	389
Towanda	C	46	42	10431	226	248
Rosilia	B	34	32	7321	215	228
Potwin	C	40	35	8041	201	229
Andover	C	44	38	8104	184	213
Peru	B	49	47	11936	243	254
Rivertown	C	42	35	7950	189	227
Treece	D	38	21	3890	138	185
Strawn	D	26	24	5356	206	223
Wilmore	C	46	40	10363	225	259
Cambridge	A	36	32	16156	448	504
Franklin	C	48	40	4876	101	121
Bendena	D	42	33	8224	195	249
Severance	D	33	31	6656	201	214
Denton	C	44	39	7040	159	180
White Cloud	C	41	38	6804	165	179
Vinland	C	39	37	9873	253	266
Elk Falls	C	41	37	6726	164	181
Pierceville	A	28	24	6252	223	260
Bloom	C	29	22	11825	407	514

TABLE II continued;

Grainfield	C	38	33	8293	218	251
Grinnell	C	37	35	10797	291	308
Ingals	B	45	43	11077	246	257
Copeland	B	48	45	11893	247	264
Ensign	B	49	45	11508	247	264
Montezuma	B	43	37	16216	377	438
Reece	B	42	36	9825	253	272
Climax	C	49	46	11724	239	254
Quincy	D	34	30	6853	201	228
Spring Twp.	C	37	35	9562	258	273
Stohrville	B	45	36	10696	237	297
Walton	C	44	43	7229	164	168
Satanta	C	36	32	9269	257	289
Hanson	C	39	32	21467	319	389
Delia	C	45	39	9816	218	251
Sinclair	B	41	39	7516	183	192
Athens	C	37	32	6622	179	206
Montrose	C	39	33	10744	275	325
Edgerton	C	49	45	9496	193	211
Stilwell	C	41	39	9232	225	236
Deerfield	B	39	33	8887	227	269
Zenda	C	32	28	7682	240	274
Belmont	D	31	27	8227	265	304
Healy	D	46	43	8788	191	204
Vesper	D	34	33	9635	283	291
Monument	C	26	22	5294	203	240
Miller	C	26	22	5294	205	228
Neosho Rapids	C	41	36	8639	210	239
Allen	C	43	38	8639	223	266
Lost Springs	D	36	30	6388	177	212
Vermillion	C	43	38	7107	166	187
Otaka	C	46	38	5380	116	141
Roxbury	C	42	39	8961	213	228
Bucyrus	C	49	43	8903	181	207
Wayside	D	33	30	5080	153	169
Parkerville	C	31	27	7018	226	256
Delavan	D	34	29	8001	235	275
Bancroft	D	33	29	4779	144	164
Oneida	D	30	27	5563	285	206
Grant Twp.	D	49	45	6546	133	145
Beeler	D	30	26	4601	153	176
Stockdale	D	34	29.4	6504	191	221
Codell	C	47	38	6345	135	166
Paradise	C	34	30	7205	211	240
Smolan	D	33	30	8230	250	276
Glendale	D	37	35	5830	257	186
Kipp	C	47	41	10202	217	248

TABLE II continued:

Kismeth	C	34	30	7473	219	249
Auburn	C	49	43	8876	181	206
Dover	C	44	32	9947	226	310
Selden	C	45	40	10500	233	262
Harlan	C	33	29	6295	190	217
Athol	C	48	40	11156	232	278
St. Johns	C	48	40	7297	152	182
Milan	C	33	30	6169	186	205
Geuda Springs	D	43	32	7893	183	246
Milton	C	48	45	9444	196	209
Paxico	C	40	34	10550	265	310
Linn	D	49	43	5383	109	126
Mahaska	D	45	42	8556	190	205
Vilas	C	29	27	6931	239	256
Piper	C	50	41	9194	183	224
Woodbine	C	50	46	15868	317	345

Findings in Group II

Group II includes those high schools with a total enrollment of twenty-five to fifty inclusive. There are 164 schools reported coming within this range, but only 100, or 61 per cent, were in this sample due to incomplete and inaccurate reports.

They are classified by the state as follows: 2 in class A; 19 in class B; 52 in class C; and 27 in class D. Approximately 74 per cent of the schools in this group are in classes C and D. Here again it is found necessary to alternate a majority of the subjects included in the curriculum. The classes, however, are small and the cost of instruction correspondingly increased.

The mean cost per pupil per annum was found to be, on

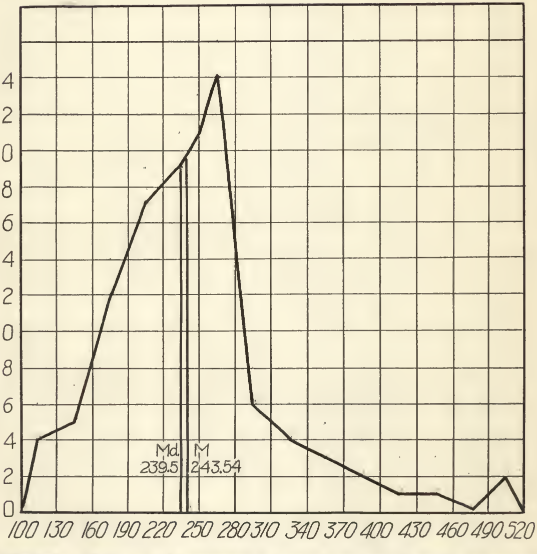

Figure 3. Polygon Frequency Curve Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost Per Year for Operating High Schools in Kansas with the Average Daily Attendance between Twenty-six and Fifty-one.

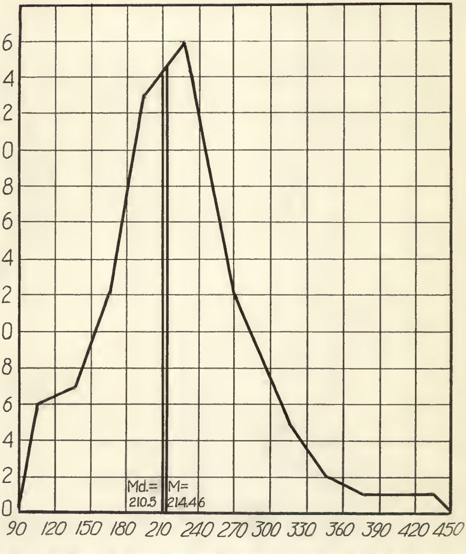

Figure 4. Polygon Frequency Curve Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost Per Year for Operating High Schools in Kansas with the Total Enrollment between Twenty-six and Fifty-one.

total attendance $214.46, and on average daily attendance $243.54. The median cost of instruction per pupil per year was $239.50. The range in the costs on average daily attendance is only $410 in Group II as compared to $817 in Group I.

TABLE III. Comparative Analysis of Per Pupil Cost on Basis of Number of Teachers in Group II.

No. of Teachers	Av. Cost per Pupil	Total Av. Enrollment	No. of Schools
2	172	35	8
3	217	37	36
4	262	42	43
5	285	43	11
6	384	42	2

The above table shows that the average cost per pupil per annum depends to some extent, at least, on the number of teachers used in the system. There is an increase in costs with each teacher added and the number of teachers is not in keeping with the total enrollment of the school. Approximately eighty per cent of these schools are using three or four teachers. According to the state classifications of the schools, the five and six teacher schools have a higher ranking but have no doubt secured this with the extra teachers and therefore more wealth of curriculum at a considerable increase in per pupil cost.

In summarizing, the mean cost per pupil per annum on average daily attendance is reduced from that of Group I schools, and there is not so great a difference in range of per pupil costs. The majority of the schools are classified in the two lower classes C and D, and the more teachers in the school system the greater the per pupil cost regardless of the total enrollment.

TABLE V. Schools with a Total Enrollment of 51 to 76.
GROUP III.

School	Classification	Total Enroll.	Av. Daily Att.	Total Am't Pd. Out Less Permanent Impr.	Per Pupil Cost Per Annum	
					Total Enroll.	Av. Daily Att.
Westphalia	C	61	58	$10360	169	178
Kincaid	B	64	62	10798	168	174
Pawnee Rock	A	70	64	13548	193	211
Saffordville	C	54	48	14732	272	308
Latham	B	58	51	16408	282	321
Benton	B	56	51	6447	115	126
Rose Hill	B	65	57	8264	127	144
Chautauqua	B	67	59	11910	177	201
Elgin	A	60	57	12326	205	216
Gridley	B	72	61	9372	130	153
Burden	B	60	56	9156	152	163
Cockerill	C	52	49	5668	109	115
Walnut	C	71	65	7309	102	112
Enterprise	B	58	47	11627	200	247
Lecompton	D	57	52	7508	131	144
Trousdale	C	51	43	13164	258	306
Grenola	C	67	64	14292	213	223
Lorraine	D	54	52	11068	204	212
Holyrude	D	54	52	16254	226	239
Ford	A	71	66	16856	237	255
Rantoul	C	62	59	9415	151	159
Richmond	B	70	65	11665	166	179
Pomona	B	71	65	8023	113	123
Gove	B	65	63	8073	124	128
Bogue	D	51	39.7	11977	234	301
Greely Co. Con.	C	57	48	11567	202	240
Piedmont	B	66	52	11682	208	224
Fall River	B	67	61	10823	161	177
Sublette	B	58	56	9762	168	174
Hoyt	B	71	64	12048	169	188
Mayetta	C	71	64	11526	162	180
Circleville	C	72	63	9448	131	149
Ionia	C	58	52	11100	191	213
Randall	B	64	60	18460	288	307
Stanley	C	58	53	9548	164	180
Cunningham	B	65	56	10244	256	182
Norwich	B	70	64	12438	177	194

TABLE V continued:

Mullinville	B	59	50	15267	258	305
Prescott	C	75	65	7611	101	117
Bushong	B	69	57	8800	149	154
Admire	B	62	58	8881	143	153
Ramona	B	57	54	10000	175	185
Goessell	C	72	69	6206	86	89
Durham	C	55	46	6332	115	137
Irving	C	61	55	7207	118	131
Beatie	C	65	56	6091	95	108
Summerfield	C	73	58	8353	114	144
Windom	B	68	67	15198	223	226
Dunlap	B	73	67	10866	148	162
Burdick	B	62	52	15860	241	288
Corning	B	70	59	13737	196	232
Goff	B	54	52	11692	216	224
Brownell	C	54	50	13616	252	272
Bazine	C	64	58	12020	287	207
Carbondale	B	56	49	12796	228	261
Tescott	C	67	64	8606	128	134
Burdett	B	61	52	14001	229	269
Garfield	B	69	63	12765	185	202
Emmett	D	62	58	8059	129	138
Langdon	B	59	54	14071	238	260
Narka	C	59	55	9068	153	164
Agenda	B	61	59	9627	157	163
Cuba	C	54	51	5900	109	115
Courtland Com.	C	53	51	6258	118	122
Chase	A	75	70	16107	214	230
Bushton	B	65	58	10559	162	182
Keats	D	52	47	9155	176	194
Cleburn	D	58	55.4	12885	222	232
Webster	C	64	55	10388	162	188
Dorrance	B	70	60	10862	155	181
Falun	B	58	52	9069	156	174
Brookville	B	60	55	13272	221	241
Assaria	A	74	71	15440	208	217
Berryton	C	63	58	8876	140	153
Gaylord	C	61	58	10675	175	184
Maplehill	B	56	52	14507	263	278
Morrowville	D	73	66	17411	238	263

Findings in Group III

The enrollment of the high schools in Group III ranges from 51 to 75 inclusive. There are 77 schools included in this group, or fifty-four per cent of the schools in Kansas with the above range in enrollment.

The mean cost on total enrollment in this group is $178.17 and on average daily attendance is $195.10 per pupil per year. The median cost per pupil on average daily attendance is $190.00 but 5 of these schools, however, have a cost per pupil of $300.00.

TABLE IV. Comparative Analysis of Per Pupil Cost on Basis of Number of Teachers in Group III.

No. of Teachers	Av. Cost per Pupil	Total Av. Enrollment	No. of Schools
3	128	54	2
4	165	61	28
5	194	63	35
6	243	67	11
7	211	70	1

The above table shows that as the number of teachers is increased there is also an increase in the per pupil cost on average daily attendance except in the case of seven teachers reported so the result cannot be considered.

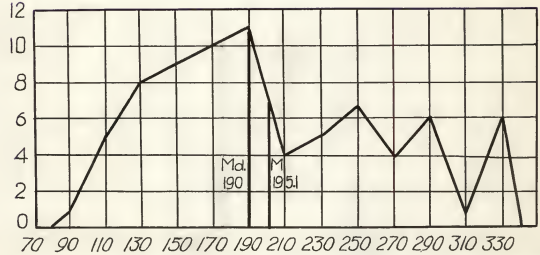

Figure 5. Polygon Frequency Curve Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost of Operating High Schools in Kansas with an Average Daily Attendance between Fifty-one and Seventy-six.

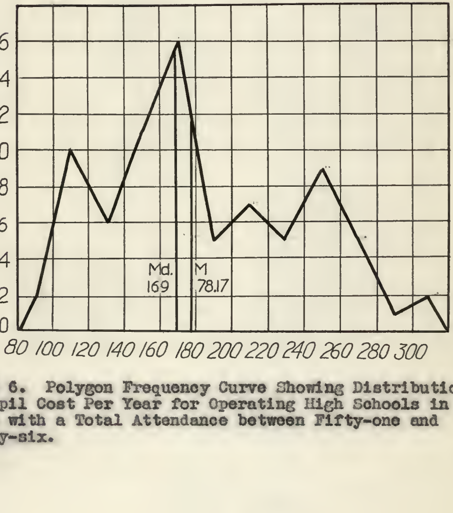

Figure 6. Polygon Frequency Curve Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost Per Year for Operating High Schools in Kansas with a Total Attendance between Fifty-one and Seventy-six.

Approximately 64 per cent of the schools in this group are in B and C classes with a few more in B than in C.

Summarizing the findings in Group III, it is found that the range of per pupil costs on average daily attendance is very much less than that of Group II. For Group III it is $209.00 as compared to $410.00 for Group II. Most of the schools were in classes B and C and a lower comparative mean and median on the per pupil costs were found.

TABLE VI. Schools with Total Enrollment of 76 to 100 Inclusive.
GROUP IV.

School	Classification	Total Enroll.	Av. Daily Att.	Total Am't Pd. Out Less Permanent Impr.	Per Pupil Cost Per Annum	
					Total Enroll.	Av. Daily Att.
Fulton	C	81	68	$ 4790	59	70
Leon	A	99	89	17614	177	197
West Mineral	B	81	72	7000	86	97
Englewood	B	77	73	8424	109	115
Jamestown	C	77	70	9600	124	137
Leroy	C	98	68	7162	73	105
Udall	C	78	65	7645	98	117
Atlanta	A	81	70	20175	249	288
Arcadia	B	96	86	9137	95	107
Hepler	B	81	73	11575	142	158
Norcatur	B	84	70	13499	160	192
Highland	A	86	73	13822	160	189
Lewis	B	89	77	15622	175	202
Holycomb Con.	A	83	67	11803	142	176
Williamsburg	B	79	75	13001	164	173
Quinter	B	97	89	15098	155	170
Morland	C	87	73	12325	141	169
Ulysses	B	95	78	16941	178	217
Severy	B	85	75	14217	167	189
Hamilton	A	80	67	16005	200	238
Burrton	B	79	74	10067	127	136
Soldier	B	84	79	12102	144	153
Denison	B	87	84	14160	162	169
Meriden	A	82	75	11577	141	154
Winchester	A	96	84	17518	182	211
Desoto	A	76	73	12773	168	174
Spring Hill	C	80	71	14175	177	199
Gardner	B	93	81	9635	103	118
Lakin	B	85	72	8867	104	123
Lane Con.	A	99	94	17443	176	185
Beverley	A	86	77	21194	246	275
Reading	B	84	73	10755	128	147
Hillsboro	B	98	90	10138	103	112
Axtel	C	80	72	10827	135	150
Plains	A	100	96	13454	134	140
Elk City	B	100	92	10827	108	117
Wilsey	C	78	75	12123	155	161

TABLE VI continued:

Malvern	B	96	90	14585	151	162
Westmoreland	D	88	79	12784	145	161
McDonald	B	80	68	17938	224	263
Herndon	C	81	72	10854	134	150
Arlington	B	91	84	13977	153	166
Partridge	B	98	90	13009	132	144
Sylvia	B	92	86	17066	186	204
Turon	B	80	68	13048	163	191
Scandia	B	95	91	9000	94	98
Republic	B	86	82	8915	104	108
Randolph	B	78	73	10656	139	156
Riley	C	85	75.6	11865	139	156
Woodston	B	80	76	15900	198	209
Gypsum	D	82	51	8170	99	160
Silver Lake	D	93	82	24594	264	299
Harveyville	A	82	75	15707	191	209

Findings in Group IV

This group consists of high schools in Kansas with enrollment between 76 and 100 inclusive. There are 82 such schools, but again it was necessary to discard many, and this report is based on 65 per cent, or 53 schools.

The mean cost per pupil per year on total enrollment is $146.32, and on average daily attendance, $167.00. The medians and means are very close in this group. The means are approximately $30.00 less in Group IV than in Group III for the per pupil cost.

TABLE VII. Comparative Analysis of Per Pupil Cost on Basis of Number of Teachers in Group IV.

No. of Teachers	Av. Cost per Pupil	Total Av. Enrollment	No. of Schools
3	70	81	1
4	124	80	3
5	149	87	16
6	168	86	22
7	218	87	7
8	206	94	4
9	202	89	1

In the above table the average cost per pupil increases with the increase in number of teachers until the last two cases of eight and nine in which a loss is shown. It is very possible that if a fair sample was used that altogether different results would be shown. In the only case of three teachers used, which is at Fulton, the per pupil cost is very low, or $70.00. The report sent in by the principal indicated a curriculum with practically no electives and the work for both boys and girls very nearly identical. The cost of operation was held down by not enriching the curriculum. Nearly 72 per cent of the schools in Group IV employ five or six teachers.

As shown by the table of classifications there are only three schools in class D. Over half of the schools

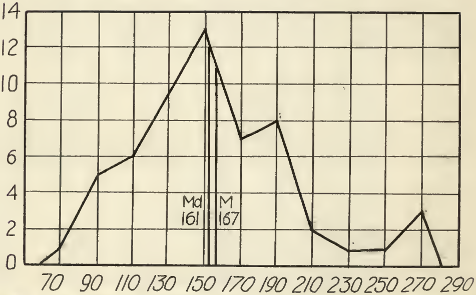

Figure 7. Polygon Frequency Curve Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost Per Year for Operating High Schools in Kansas with Average Daily Attendance between Seventy-six and One Hundred-one.

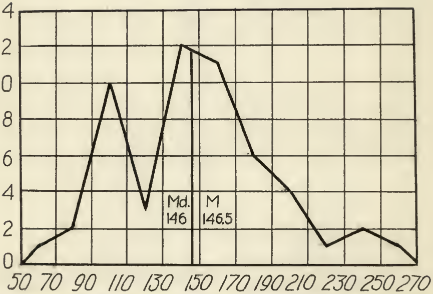

Figure 8. Polygon Frequency Curves Showing Distribution of Per Pupil Cost Per Year for Operating High Schools in Kansas with the Total Enrollment between Seventy-six and One Hundred One.

in this group are in class B. There are twelve in class A.

In Group IV the classifications are higher, showing a more desirable curriculum and the per pupil costs still lower than in the previous groups.

GENERAL SUMMARY

The information in this study shows very clearly that the per pupil cost of operating the smaller schools is much higher than in each succeeding group with the larger enrollments. This is a loss to those supporting the school but possibly the greatest loss is to the pupil because of a very limited curriculum. There is practically no vocational guidance in the form of try-out courses, few, if any, extra-curricular activities, no opportunity for the study of music, and in few of the smaller schools is there any attention given to physical development. It will be necessary for the students in nearly 50 per cent of the schools with enrollment not over 25 to finish their high school course in some other school as half are approved for only two years. There will be, with these pupils, a loss of time in becoming adjusted in some four year high school and in many cases it will be necessary for them to enter a Junior high school for one year. This will mean another break when entering Senior high school. In the small schools the teachers are more often inefficient and

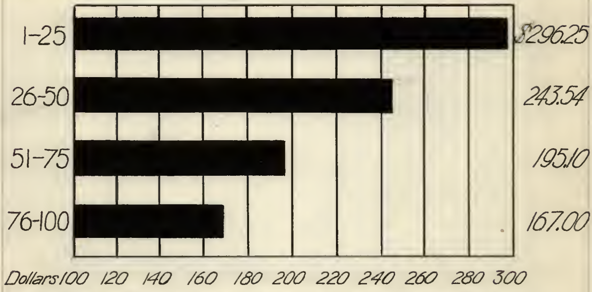

Figure 9. A Comparison Showing the Per Pupil Cost of Operating High Schools in Kansas in the Different Sized Groups on the Average Daily Attendance Basis.

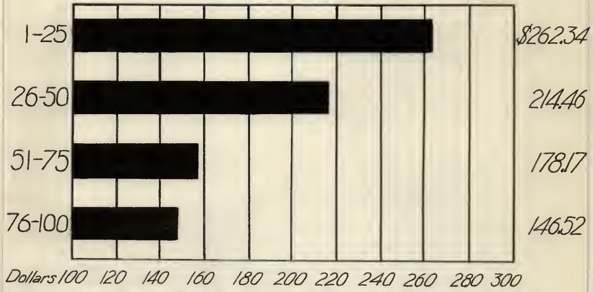

Figure 10. A Comparison Showing the Per Pupil Cost of Operating High Schools in Kansas in the Different Sized Groups on the Total Enrollment Basis.

inexperienced. The school classifications as made by the State Department of Education are an index of the quality of work done. Table VIII shows very clearly the higher ratings of the larger schools.

TABLE VIII. A Comparison of the Classifications in the Four Groups of High Schools.

Classifications	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV
A		2	5	12
B		19	38	28
C	7	52	27	10
D	17	27	7	3
3 yr. App.	1			
2 yr. App.	19			
Total in each group	44	100	77	53

The rapid increase in the tax burden of Kansas has been a problem for a number of years. School taxes have almost trebled during the interval from 1916 to 1926. The purchasing power of the dollar has decreased approximately forty-six per cent and the tax payers are not able to pay such a high tax. The great number of small grade and high schools is one reason for the added high costs. In these schools is found small classes or a small number of pupils per teacher. Figure 9, showing a comparison of the per pupil cost of operating high schools in Kansas in the different sized groups on the average daily attendance basis, shows that there is an increase of $50.00 per pupil per year in operation costs of the schools with an enrollment of 26 to 51 pupils over those with 51 to 76. There is also the same increase in the operation cost of the schools with less than 25 pupils over those with 26 to 51. It costs approximately $100.00 per year per pupil more, in schools of 25 or less, than in schools of 51 to 76.

It is obvious from the facts shown that the smaller high schools should be discontinued but where the break should come is not an easy matter to decide. Many factors should be taken into consideration but schools with an enrollment of less than 50 should without doubt be discontinued. Monroe, in his study of the Costs of Instruction in Kansas High Schools, found the per pupil cost of maintaining a high school to increase until an enrollment of about 175 was reached.

The two main factors in high costs are: first, small classes, and second, the effort to raise the school classification by increasing the breadth of the curriculum.

A Possible Solution of High Costs

1. Over fifty years ago the first law regarding the establishment of high schools was passed. From that time down to the present additional laws have been made until at present high schools are operating under about five

different financial plans. In many cases there is an overlapping and also a double tax. The latter causes an unjust financial burden, and the former, unnecessary confusion. Undoubtedly the repeal of all the present laws and the enactment of new laws would be a great benefit but this procedure would require several years time, as the general public must be led to see the benefits before they will be satisfied and this educative process will be slow.

2. The establishment of a uniform state and county equalization fund as set up by the Kansas School Code Commission, will come nearer solving the financial support of schools than any other. According to this plan there would be a uniform district levy of one and a half mills and the remaining amount necessary for the support of a minimum educational opportunity would be supplied from the state and county equalization fund. Any district may add to the minimum opportunity as much as they care to with an additional levy within their district. The recommendation of the Kansas State School Code Commission is to follow old boundary lines at present but in time to redistrict practically the entire state.

3. In fairness to the people living in outlaying districts, or several miles from the school, the transportation proposal, in which a certain financial aid per mile is allowed all students living beyond a given radius of the

high school, should in time be pressed into compulsory service. As a result of not having this aid many farm boys and girls are deprived of a high school education due to the high cost of transportation.

4. The smaller high schools in the state will be eliminated in many cases should the foregoing recommendation be adopted, but until that time other changes should be made to reduce costs and give more efficient instruction. Smart (1928) sights a number of cases where pupils are being transported from small schools to larger and more efficient schools at a cost much less than operation of the small schools. The schools at Hamilton and Tonovay make an example where a reduction would follow the closing of the Tonovay school and sending the students in that district to Hamilton. Smart (1927) in a study made among schools in northeast Kansas found that the pupil cost per year more than doubled that of larger high schools and recommended the discontinuance of the small schools. Smith worked out a plan in Brown county to abandon the small high schools and have one large school centrally located. This plan was well received in Hiawatha but in small towns there was opposition to closing the high schools and sending the children to the larger school.

5. Apparently it will be necessary for law enactment in order to close the smaller schools. The minimum size of high schools might be determined by the following

factors:

(1) School population.

(2) Condition of central highways leading to larger school.

(3) Valuation of district.

School population is the most important factor but without an all-weather road leading from the outlying districts to the larger school transportation by bus is greatly handicapped. A district with a high valuation can pay more per pupil for education than one with a low valuation.

6. Apparently the primary step in reducing costs is education of the tax payers of Kansas. When the reason for high taxes is brought to their attention they will be willing to try new methods leading to a solution. It will require considerable time to improve the situation very greatly and a large part of the improvement will, no doubt, come by the trial and error method.

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